



HAVE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS WITNESSED UFOs?

by Jim Marrs © 7 April 2002

If alien craft truly exist, wouldn't the American astronauts have seen and reported such? Thus goes the usual argument by those who would never place faith in UFO sightings or metaphysical experiences. Such science acolytes see high-tech hardware and rocket jets as the only viable means of exploring space. They view our astronauts as men and women operating strictly within the confines of conventional science and engineering. They place unlimited faith in NASA's ability to study the universe by spending taxpayer money solely on traditional technology.

So, where does this leave the astronauts? Have America's spacefarers confronted the unknown in space? The answer is a resounding "yes". The problem is that the mass media usually fail to distribute any such experiences widely. And, as a whole, US astronauts appear to have maintained a united front, stoutly denying that any valid UFO encounters have taken place.

Following a news conference in March 1996 devoted to artifacts in space, particularly the famous "face on Mars", *Apollo* astronaut Alan Bean told the media: "It's not true. No one, certainly not me and

Pete Conrad, who I was with the whole time, saw anything that suggested ancient civilisations." NASA spokesman Brian Welch added: "Everything we found, we made public."

Despite these assurances, many researchers remain unconvinced. Rumours have persisted for years that the astronauts—nearly all of whom were military officers susceptible to being silenced under orders—may have seen something more on the Moon than rocks and dust. According to transcripts of the technical debriefing following the *Apollo 11* mission, astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins told of an encounter with a large cylindrical UFO even before reaching the Moon.

Aldrin said: "The first unusual thing that we saw, I guess, was one day out or pretty close to the Moon. It had a sizable dimension to it..." He said the *Apollo* crew at first thought the object was the *Saturn 4* booster rocket (S-IVB), but he added: "We called the ground and were told the S-IVB was 6,000 miles away."

Aldrin described the UFO as a cylinder, while Armstrong said it was "...really two rings. Two connected rings". Collins also said it appeared to be tumbling. He added: "It was a hollow cylinder. But then you could change the focus on the sextant and it would be replaced by this open-book

shape. It was really weird."

Even more strange was the experience of Aldrin and Armstrong after they reached the Moon. According to an Associated Press story of 20 July 1969 (my file copy is from the San Bernardino *Sun-Telegram*), the astronauts sighted eerie lights inside a crater near the point on the Moon where their lunar lander was due to touch down the next day.

On their first sweep around the Moon, Armstrong described a mysterious bright light on the inner wall of the crater Aristarchus, located north of their flight path. "It seems to have a slight amount of fluorescence to it. The area in the crater is quite bright," he reported. "That area is definitely brighter than anything else I can see. There doesn't appear to be any colour involved in it... It looks like an eerie sight," confirmed Aldrin.

Two astronauts who appear to have broken ranks are Dr Edgar Mitchell and Gordon Cooper.

On an *Oprah Winfrey Show* on 19 July 1991, Dr Mitchell hinted that all information regarding UFOs has not been released, saying: "I do believe that there is a lot more known about extraterrestrial investigation than is available to the public right now (and) has been for a long time... It's a long, long story. It goes back to World War II when all of that happened,

CONVERSATIONS FROM APOLLO MOON MISSIONS PROVE NASA UFO COVER-UP

The following are excerpts of actual conversations between Mission Control and *Apollo* astronauts on and/or above the Moon.

APOLLO 11: 16–24 July 1969. With Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin, this was the first *Apollo* mission to land on the Moon, on 20 July.

While Collins flew in orbit around the Moon in the command module, Armstrong and Aldrin descended in the lunar module, landing in the Sea of Tranquillity at 4.17 pm.

During the transmission of the landing, two minutes of silence occurred in which the image and sound were interrupted. NASA insisted that this problem was the result of one of the television cameras overheating, thus interfering with the reception.

This unexpected problem surprised even the most qualified of viewers, who were unable to explain how, in such a costly project, one of the most essential elements could break down.

Some time after the historic Moon landing, Christopher Craft, director of the base in Houston, made some surprising comments when he left NASA.

The content of these comments, included in the transcript of conversations below, has been corroborated by hundreds of amateur radio operators who had connected their

and is highly classified stuff."

On NBC *Dateline* in 1996, Mitchell was even more candid. "I have no first-hand experience, but I have had the opportunity to meet with people from three countries who in the course of their official duties claim to have had personal first-hand encounter experiences...with extraterrestrials," he said.

More recently, Mitchell flatly stated that some advanced military craft use technology derived from alien spacecraft that have been collected by the US government.

Cooper, in a letter read during a 1978 meeting at the United Nations to discuss UFOs, stated: "I believe that these extraterrestrial vehicles and their crews are visiting this planet from other planets, which are obviously a little more advanced than we are here on Earth."

Also that year, Cooper wrote a letter to the ambassador of the Mission of Grenada to the United Nations, supporting a UN initiative to study UFOs. In his letter, Cooper stated that astronauts "are very reluctant to even discuss UFOs due to the great numbers of people who have indiscriminately sold fake stories and forged documents abusing their names and reputations without hesitation".

"Those few astronauts who have continued to participate in the UFO field have had to do so very cautiously," he wrote. "There are several of us who do believe in UFOs and who have had occasion to see a UFO on the ground, or from an airplane."

Cooper's mention of a "UFO on the ground" apparently was a reference to his own experience at Edwards Air Force Base on 2 May 1957. In 1993, Cooper gave this account of the incident [to hear audio, go to <http://www.thewhyfiles.net/pilotsightings2.htm>]: "I had a crew that was filming an installation of a precision landing system we were installing out on the dry lake bed, and they were there with stills and movies and filmed the whole installation and they came running in to tell me that this UFO, a little saucer, had come down right over them, put down three gear[s], and landed about 50 yards from them; and as they proceeded to go on over to get a closer shot of it, it lifted up, put the gear in, and disappeared in a rapid rate of speed. And so I had to follow my directions as a military... I had to look up the regulations on who I was to call to report this, which I did, and they ordered me to immediately have the film developed, put

it in a pouch, and send them [*sic*] by the commanding general's plane to Washington, which I did. And that was the last I've ever heard of the film."

It is interesting to note that, despite the continued protests that there is no government secrecy regarding UFOs, there is no public report on this incident. Although the event was listed in the Project *Blue Book* index, a full report and clear photos are suspiciously absent. Yet Cooper, who reported the UFO landing, was selected as a *Mercury* astronaut only two years later.

In a 1996 interview, Cooper said he discounts any conventional explanation for his experience. Asked his thoughts on UFOs, the astronaut said: "Well, I figured it was somebody coming from some distant place to visit us."

So, at least some of America's astronauts have had unexplained experiences and have voiced views radically different from conventional thinking.

(Source: <http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc501.htm>)

About the Author:

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"Houston. Send an emergency shuttle up here as soon as possible. We're running out of interesting conversation."

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

stations to the same frequency through which the astronauts transmitted, thus bypassing NASA's broadcasting outlets.

During the two-minute interruption, which was not as it seemed, NASA, Armstrong and Aldrin with Cape Kennedy censored both image and sound. "I say that there were other spaceships," Craft commented.

Armstrong & Aldrin: Those are giant things. No, no, no—this is not an optical illusion. No one is going to believe this!

Houston (Christopher Craft): What... what...what? What the hell is happening? What's wrong with you?

Armstrong & Aldrin: They're here under the surface.

Houston: What's there? [muffled noise] Emission interrupted; interference; Control calling *Apollo 11*.

Armstrong & Aldrin: We saw some visitors. They were here for a while, observing the instruments.

Houston: Repeat your last information!

Armstrong & Aldrin: I say that there were other spaceships. They're lined up in the other side of the crater!

Houston: Repeat, repeat!

Armstrong & Aldrin: Let us sound this orbiter...in 625 to 5... Automatic relay connected... My hands are shaking so badly I can't do anything. Film it? God, if these damned cameras have picked up anything—what then?

Houston: Have you picked up anything?

Armstrong & Aldrin: I didn't have any film at hand. Three shots of the saucers or whatever they were that were ruining the film.

Houston: Control, Control here. Are you on your way? What is the uproar with the UFOs over?

Armstrong & Aldrin: They've landed here. There they are and they're watching us.

Houston: The mirrors, the mirrors—have you set them up?

Armstrong & Aldrin: Yes, they're in the right place. But whoever made those spaceships surely can come tomorrow and remove them. Over and out.

(Source: *Celestial Raise* by Richard Watson and ASSK [PO Box 35, Mt Shasta CA 96067, USA, tel +1 (916) 926 2316], 1987, pp. 147-48)

APOLLO 15: 26 July–7 August 1971; David Scott and Alfred Worden land on the Apennine Mountains on 30 July:

Capcom: You talked about something mysterious...

Orion: OK, Gordy, when we pitched around, I'd like to tell you about something we saw around the LM [LEM or Lunar Excursion Module]. When we were coming about 30 or 40 feet out, there were a lot of objects—white things—flying by. It looked as if they were being propelled or ejected, but I'm not convinced of that.

Capcom: We copy that, Charlie.

APOLLO 16: 16–27 April 1972; Charles Duke and John Young land on the Descartes highlands on 21 April:

Duke: We felt it under our feet. It's a soft spot. Firmer. Where we stand, I tell you one thing. If this place had air, it'd sure be beautiful. It's beautiful with or without air. The scenery up on top of Stone Mountain, you'd have to be there to see this to believe it—those domes are incredible!

Mission Control: OK, could you take a look at that smoky area there and see what you can see on the face?

Duke: Beyond the domes, the structure goes almost into the ravine that I described and one goes to the top. In the northeast wall of the ravine you can't see the delineation. To the northeast there are tunnels; to the north they are dipping east to about 30 degrees.

APOLLO 17: 7–19 December 1972; Ronald Evans stays in lunar orbit, while Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt land in the Taurus–Littrow Valley on 11 December:

Mission Control: Go ahead, Ron.

Evans: OK, Robert, I guess the big thing I want to report from the back side is that I took another look at the...the... cloverleaf in Aitken with the binocs. And that southern dome [garble] to the east.

Mission Control: We copy that, Ron. Is there any difference in the color of the dome and the Mare Aitken there?

Evans: Yes there is... That Condor, Condorse, or Condorecet or whatever you want to call it there. Condorecet Hotel is the one that has got the diamond-shaped fill down in the, uh, floor.

Mission Control: Robert. Understand. Condorecet Hotel.

Evans: Condor. Condorset. Alpha. They've either caught a landslide on it or it's got a...and it doesn't look like [garble] in the other side of the wall in the northwest side.

Mission Control: OK, we copy that; northwest wall of Condorecet A.

Evans: The area is oval or elliptical in shape. Of course, the ellipse is toward the top.

(Source: *Don Wilson, Our Mysterious Spaceship Moon*, Dell Books, USA, 1975, via 5 April 1996 posting at <http://www.v-j-enterprises.com/astro2.html>)



"Long time, no see."